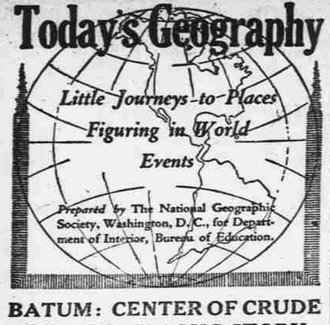

BATUM: CENTER OF CRUDE OIL AND CLASSIC STORY

Mingle an all-pervading odor or petroleum with the aroma of 1,000 years of history; picture the physical aspects of a Texas town of the gusher region, including puffing trains lumbering through the principal street amid a swarthy human content of Turk, Armenian, Georgian and Greek, and you get an idea of the incongruity of Batum.

Batum has grown like a mushroom within a generation because a pipe line poured precious oil through its Black sea port. It nestles at the foothills of a stream of history that parallels the pipe line and the 550-mile course of the railway to Baku, which links the Black sea to the Caspian, and passes such peaks of legend as the 18,000-foot Mt. Elburz, where Prometheus was bound to a rock as the vultures consumed his flesh.

From 1907 to 1911, inclusive, nearly one-fifth of the world's oil supply came from the Caucasus region, and in normal times Batum was credited with exporting more petroleum than any other port in the world. Batum won this boon by the natural advantage of a harbor ranked as one of the best in the world, despite the occasional storms that render its shelter treacherous.

The city came to its industrial own when it passed from Turkish dominion to Russian hands in 1878; but political troubles, even before the war bolts of 1914, affected its commerce. Before the World war a movement had been launched to boom Batum as a health resort. In that field it had some assets, despite its get-rich-quick anomalies and unkempt appearance, such as a climate where the foliage was thick in mid-winter, and its boulevards, shaded by palms, acacias and banana trees.

In 1903 Batum had an economic experience that affected it more deeply, perhaps, than political disturbances. It never recovered from the general strike of that year, which spread over the entire South Russia, and, in Batum, brought paralysis to business, suffering to citizens and palsy to progress.

Batum is built in a sort of amphitheater facing a beautiful bay. Wine was produced in the vineyards in its vicinity; and in the spring tons of strawberries were grown in the fields nearby. Both products were exported before the war. In those days automobiles, sewing machines, fireless cookers and writing materials passed its custom house on their way to the Caucasus or Persia.

WHAT'S IN SOME GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Names of such women as Joan of Arc and Edith Cavell are written indelibly upon the hearts of people for all ages. Generous and well deserved tributes have been paid lastingly to others, but so much have their names become a part of our daily lives that many who frequently pronounce them are unmindful of their significance. Cities, rivers, provinces and islands bear the names of women of distinction.

Lady Franklin island, near Baffin island, in the arctic circle, is named for the wife of Sir John Franklin, the explorer who lost his life in first finding the Northwest passage through the great ice of the polar regions. There is perhaps no more beautiful story of untiring devotion and persistent effort than that of Lady Jane Franklin who, after the failure of many attempts, fitted out a ship which, though it brought back to her the definite proof of the loss of her husband's expedition, established his achievement of his object.

The picturesque stories of the little Indian princess Pocahontas always will hold a loved place in the hearts of American childhood. Counties in Iowa and West Virginia, villages in Bond county, Illinois, and Cape Girardeau county, Missouri, and in the Rocky mountains in Alberta, Canada, are named for her.

Queen Victoria's name is wrapped around the British empire from the capital of British Columbia, over the heart of Africa at Victoria Nyanza and Victoria falls, and beyond into the Queensland and Victoria in far-away Australia.

America, too, in its early days of colonization paid its tribute to the queens of the mother country and to the gracious ladies who braved the dangers of untried shores with their lords. Elizabeth, a cape in Maine, and Elizabeth City in Virginia, as well as the state itself, together with some 25 other places in the United States, bear the name of the clever, witty, versatile coquette, who took the dissension-torn England and whipped it into a place as a world power. Elizabeth Carteret, the charming wife of one of the aristocratic proprietors of New Jersey, shares with Queen Elizabeth some of the honors of the name. Elizabethtown, in North Carolina, and Elizabeth City, in New Jersey, are named for her.

The name of Clara Barton is perpetuated in Barton county, Kansas, and the wife of George Washington, who before her first marriage was Martha Dandridge, is honored in the town of Dandridge, Tenn.

Maryland and Virginia are fairly bespattered with the names of the queens and princesses of England, the state name of the former being taken from that of Queen Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles I. Then, too, there are Annapolis, named for the wife of James I of England; and Anne Arundel and Caroline counties, in Maryland, called after the wives of two of the Calverts; Fluvanna county and the North Anna river in Virginia, named for Queen Anne; and Charlotte, Amelia and Caroline counties and Charlottesville, the home of the University of Virginia, all called for the wives and daughters of English kings.

Marietta, O., was named for the haughty, charming Antoinette. The Aleutian islands, off the coast of Alaska, when that territory was Russian, were known as Catherine archipelago, in honor of Catherine the Great. Ekaterinburg was named for the Russian Catherine who ruled Russia through her husband, Peter the Great.

VERA CRUZ: TRAVERSING A CONTINENT IN 75 MILES

"While fully aware of the high percentage of error most sweeping assertions contain, I nevertheless venture to claim that the country lying between the cities of Vera Cruz and Mexico City possesses more varied natural attractions than any other area of similar extent in the world."

This is the statement of Frank M. Chapman, in a communication to the National Geographic society concerning Vera Cruz, which figures so conspicuously in news dispatches from Mexico. Doctor Chapman continues:

"Be one student or tourist, there can be no question that one should enter Mexico from the gulf. A journey from the coast to the capital follows a natural succession of climatic zones as well as the sequence of early historic events.

"The day, indeed, should begin at sunrise, some hours before disembarking at Vera Cruz, with a hope that one may have the rare good fortune to see the first rays of the sun touch the summit of Mt. Orizaba, the first, as it will be among the most lasting, of one's impressions of Mexico. The shore is still some 30 miles distant, the mountain itself about 100 miles, and one is with difficulty convinced that the gleaming pink cloud high above the horizon is part of the still invisible earth beneath it. Doubtless the Aztecs were not familiar with this view of Mt. Orizaba, but from no other place is their name for it—Citlaltapetl (the Star Mountain)—so applicable.

"Time was when Vera Cruz was dreaded as a pest-hole, and trains at once took one from the steamer up the Sierras on the way to Mexico City, usually as far as Orizaba. Now, however, sanitary conditions and hotel accommodations have been so improved that one may stay here without danger or discomfort.

"In our journey from the gulf to the summit of the Sierras we pass through tropical, temperate and boreal zones—the Tierras Caliente, Templada and Fria of the native. Our actual journey, in passing from sea level to snow-line, may be a matter of 75 miles, our change of altitude approximately three miles; but if we were to seek the Canadian zone not on mountain top but on the coast, it would be necessary for us to travel to Maine or Nova Scotia. In other words, a journey of some 1,500 miles would be required to reach conditions which are here distant but three altitudinal miles.

"It follows, then, that one can actually stand in a tropical jungle, where parrots, trogons, toucans, and other equatorial birds are calling from the liana-draped trees, and look upward to forests of pines and spruce, where crossbills, juncos, pine siskins, and evening grosbeaks are among the common permanent resident species.

"Later we may ascend the snows on Orizaba to discover at approximately what altitude the palms of the Tierra Caliente give way to the oaks of the Tierra Templada, to be in turn replaced by the spruce of the Tierra Fria."

QUACKS: ANCIENT AND MODERN

Do you regard cold cream as an ultra-modern palliative?

Or pure food and drug laws as a comparatively recent type of legislation?

Or the familiar "cure all" as an up-to-date quack device for the twentieth century credulous?

You are wrong, according to the statements contained in a communication to the National Geographic society from Dr. John A. Foote. A part of the communication states:

"Most people at some time or another use cold cream. It seems quite a modern luxury, indispensable alike to peer and peri, and adapted to many and varied uses. In fact, one traveler tells recently of having some of his cold cream eaten by a fat hungry valet in Germany. So we are inclined to regard it as a fairly modern product. And yet 'unguentum refrigerans,' cold cream, has come down to us from Roman days. The first formula is attributed to Galen, who lived and wrote in the second century. What we use today is practically the same, though 'Dr.' Galen's original formula was imitated and 'improved' hundreds of times.

"Emperor Frederick II. of Sicily, in 1240 or 1241, published the first pure food and drugs act. He was about 700 years ahead of Dr. Wiley, for he specified strict regulations of the standard of drug purity, and provided for drug inspectors, and fined all offenders.

"The practice of medicine was also regulated. A physician was required to have a diploma from a university before he could study medicine; then he took a three-year course in the school of medicine and one year practice under a practicing physician. Special post graduate work in anatomy was required if he was to do surgery.

"All this was in the so-called 'dark ages.' Even the fees of physicians and pharmacists were strictly regulated by law and were in purchasing value about the same as the charges of the present day. Physicians were not allowed to own drug stores and drug adulterators were severely dealt with.

"Mithradatium was the name of the great antidote of Roman pharmacy. It had from 40 to 50 vegetable ingredients, few of which had any real medicinal value except opium, and these drugs were blended with honey.

"It remained for Nero's physician, Andromachus, to put the finishing touches to this wonderful compound. Andromachus added viper's flesh to the formula and called his new compound Theriaca. He wrote some verses dedicated to Nero, describing this medicine and claiming virtues for it which in our day would subject him to prosecution. Evidently he believed he had created in this one compound a veritable pharmaceutical monopoly.

"Galen, one of the fathers of medicine, went even further. He recommended it as a cure for all poisons, bites, headaches, vertigo, deafness, epilepsy, apoplexy, dimness of sight, loss of voice, asthma, coughs, spitting of blood, tightness of breath, colic, the iliac passion (appendicitis), jaundice, hardening of the spleen, stone, fevers, dropsy, leprosy, melancholy, all pestilences, etc. Nowadays he would probably have included coupon thumb, golf shoulder and movie eye.

"As Galen's writings dominated medical thought for over 1,500 years, it is not surprising that this advertisement made Mithradatium, or Theriaca, a valued remedy. Every physician of note for centuries afterward claimed some improvement on the original formula."

SAGHALIEN: A LONG TIME POLITICAL PERPLEXITY

The island of Saghalien, recently subject of diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Japan, has been a political perplexity both to Russia and Japan for many years. Soon after the Pilgrim Fathers landed on the east coast of North America, a Japanese feudal baron dispatched an agent to this far northern island of the group that swings south from Siberia, at the mouth of the Amur, to Formosa and Fukien on the China coast. Within twenty years after that the Russians had landed on Saghalien.

The Japanese subsequently made several trips of inspection but a small handful of Russian colonists remained and today the majority of the permanent inhabitants of Saghalien are Russian, while to the Japanese it is little more than a summer fishing resort.

In 1853 Russia sent an ambassador to Nagaski and a band of troops to Saghalien. While the ambassador conducted negotiations the troops built a fortress but, after repeated attempts, the boundary question was still unsettled.

By 1875 the sea-going Japanese gave up all rights in Saghalien to the Russians in return for full rights in the Kurile islands and this condition of affairs continued until the Treaty of Portsmouth which gave southern Saghalien, up to the fiftieth parallel, to Japan.

Japanese Saghalien has little agricultural land but has large forests of both deciduous and evergreen trees, amounting to more than 8,000,000 acres. Japanese paper mills are situated in Otomari and elsewhere and an effort is being made to develop the papermaking industry.

But it is on fishing that the majority of the Japanese inhabitants depend for a living. As soon as the summer season is over the fishermen migrate to the southern islands of Japan for the winter. Mauka, on the west coast of Saghalien, is the center of the crab fisheries and much of the crab flake consumed in the Far East comes from this little town. A post road connects Mauka with Toyohara, which is the capital of Karafuto, the name which the Japanese have given to the southern part of Saghalien.

Saghalien has less than sixty miles of railway and white, red or blue lines are painted across the windows of the cars to prevent the people from trying to stick their heads through the glass.

The average annual temperature of Saghalien is near the freezing point and if the Japanese are ever to colonize the island they will have to change their methods of dressing and building.

Karafuto has much coal and there is considerable gold, but in the past the Russian residents have largely confined their efforts to farming and the Japanese to fishing.

Saghalien has not been developed to any great extent, but what natural development has taken place has been done more by the Russian exiles whose permanent homes were there than by the Japanese whose fishing camps and trading centers have dotted the shoreline.